What is Claimed is:

1.   A script engine adapted to provide a direct communication link between a web browser and a software agent.

2.   A script engine as claimed in claim 1 configured to receive a request from the web browser for data or functionality available from the software agent and transmit the request to the software agent.

3.   A script engine as claimed in claim 2 further configured to receive a response from the software agent, and transmit the response to the web browser in a format that can be recognized thereby.

4.   A script engine as claimed in claim 1 configured to translate the request from the web browser to a format that can be interpreted by the software agent.

5.   A script engine as claimed in claim 4 configured to translate the software agent response to a format that can be interpreted by the web browser.

6.   A script engine as claimed in claim 5, wherein the format interpretable by the web browser is HTML.

7.   A program storage medium readable by a computer having a memory, the medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer perform method steps for providing a communication channel between an internet browser and a software agent based system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the internet browser for data or functionality available from a software agent; and

transmitting the request to the software agent.

8. A program storage medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving a response from the software agent; and

transmitting the response to the internet browser in a format that can be recognized thereby.

9. A program storage medium as claimed in claim 8, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

translating the request from the internet browser to a format that can be interpreted by the software agent.

10. A program storage medium as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

translating the software agent response to a format that can be interpreted by the internet browser.

11. A method of communicating between a browser and a software agent, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a browser page for data or functionality available from the software agent; and

translating the request received from the browser page; and

transmitting the translated request to the software agent.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

receiving a response from the software agent; and

transmitting the software agent response to the browser in a format that can be recognized thereby.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

translating the request from the browser to a format that can be interpreted by the software agent.

14.   A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

translating the software agent response to a format that can be interpreted by the browser.

15.   A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the browser interpretable format is HTML.

16.   A self-service terminal comprising:

a web browser; and

a script engine for providing a direct communication link between the web browser and a software agent based system.

17.   An automated teller machine (ATM) comprising:

a web browser;

display means for displaying a link in a web page in the web browser to allow an ATM customer to request banking information by selecting the link; and

a script engine including (i) means for receiving a request for banking information from the ATM customer when the ATM customer selects the link in the web page in the web browser, and (ii) means for transmitting the request from the web browser to a software agent to allow the software agent to provide data associated with the banking information requested by the ATM customer.

18.   An ATM according to claim 17, wherein the script engine further includes:

(iii) means for translating the request from the web browser to a format that can be interpreted by the software agent; and

(iv) means for translating the data provided by the software agent to a format that can be interpreted by the web browser.

19.   An ATM according to claim 18, wherein the format interpretable by the web browser is HTML.